



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

2-P September 15, 2015


PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

September 15, 2015

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO THE ALTADENA LIBRARY
DISTRICT FOR THE ALTADENA WATER CONSERVATION DEMONSTRATION GARDEN
PROJECT
(FIFTH DISTRICT - 3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate County Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, to the Altadena Library District for the development of a demonstration garden.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Altadena Water Conservation Demonstration Garden Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the project.
2. Allocate County Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, to the Altadena Library District for the Altadena Water Conservation Demonstration Garden Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to the Altadena Library District, when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds

account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate County Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), and not to exceed \$25,000, to the Altadena Library District (ALD) for the Altadena Water Conservation Demonstration Garden Project (Project).

The proposed Project involves the design and construction of a water-efficient garden with drought-tolerant native plants on the premises of the Altadena Library District's Main Library. The total estimated Project cost is \$27,000. The recommended County Excess Funds will be supplemented with \$2,000 from Metropolitan Water District's turf removal rebate program.

It is also recommended, that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD), be authorized to award a grant to ALD when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Propositions, as well as grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the projects, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by the board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) and Community Support and Responsiveness (Goal 2) by providing grant funds to enhance healthy activities in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, is budgeted in RPOSD's Excess Project Funds, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. ALD meets this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining, each fiscal year, the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for County projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director will be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. RPOSD is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The proposed Project, which consists of construction of a water-efficient garden with drought-tolerant native plants on the premises of the ALD's Main Library, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Section 15304(a)(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Class 4(a)(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves minor alterations to land and new landscaping.

The proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed Project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed project's records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD. The recommended projects will promote healthy activities in public spaces in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Directors

9/15/2015

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized, cursive script.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:IV:WRO:tb

c: Interim Chief Executive Officer
Interim County Counsel
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors